

Congress acts shamefully

I have great concern for the stability of our government when our Senate, with abundant and adequate evidence against Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore., seizes his personal diaries, forcing him to testify against himself against all constitutional guarantees. At the same time it ignores other blatant and gross misdeeds by other senators who hold powers within the Senate.

The House in the meantime refuses to look into the activities of Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill. — who has been accused by many reliable investigations of repeated wrongdoing — simply because he is a necessary power in the House.

This in and of itself is shameful and gross misconduct on the behalf of Congress, worthy of many second thoughts when next we vote. There seems to be no difference in parties in this scandal, because no member of either party is raising a fuss, or is it that they can't get media attention? This should be a concern of every American regardless of party affiliation, or lack of same.

— Morgan Flaherty
Colorado Springs

Amendment caused harm

12/27/93 CT
With the Dec. 14 decision from District Judge Jeff Bayless holding that Amendment 2 is unconstitutional, one thing is abundantly clear. The effort to pass Amendment 2 and the court battle to make it law have been a campaign of lies and distortions that cannot pass judicial muster in Colorado state courts and, we believe, will fail as quickly in federal courts.

Judge Bayless spoke the truth on Dec. 14. He spoke the truth on Jan. 15 when he issued a preliminary injunction preventing Amendment 2 from becoming law. On July 19, the Colorado Supreme Court spoke the truth when it upheld that injunction.

Special rights do not exist in American law. All the lesbians, gay men and bisexuals have ever sought is the right to keep a job if we are doing it well, the right to keep an apartment if we pay the rent, the right to services — both public and private — if we pay the bill. Today, we are denied these rights because of who we are. Discrimination is all too real in our lives.

In fact, it was Colorado for Family Values that sought special rights. CFV members wanted the right to single out a group for discriminatory treatment. They wanted to exclude us from equal participation in the political process. Fortunately, we do not grant special rights to anyone in America.

Several weeks before Judge Bayless handed down his decision, Boycott Colorado and New York! Boycott Colorado announced that we would suspend the Colorado boycott if Amendment 2 was found to be unconstitutional by Judge Bayless. Amendment 2 has been divisive and damaging to Colorado, but the time has come for the pain to stop.

Amendment 2 has cost Colorado a minimum of \$80 million in lost tourism and convention revenues. Colorado tourism officials conceded that estimate in a Nov. 14 Denver Post article. We cannot measure the esteem Colorado lost when she was branded the "Hate State."

The cost to Colorado families has been devastating. One son of Colorado took his life because of Amendment 2 and many more sons and daughters have been

hurt by Amendment 2 supporters.

We remain extremely grateful to the more than 150 organizations and individuals who endorsed this boycott. We applaud the hundreds of thousands of Americans who supported the boycott. Now, however, is the time for healing. Not only have we suspended our boycott, but we invite all Americans to do business with Colorado. We believe this is our responsibility. Colorado has responsibilities as well.

Gov. Roy Romer and state Attorney General Gale Norton should drop this case. Further appeals will only keep this divisive measure alive and they have no chance of success. Colorado for Family Values should admit this is nothing but a malicious attempt at enacting an unfair piece of legislation and an attack on lesbians, gay men and bisexuals.

All Coloradans should urge their elected officials to enact civil rights legislation that includes sexual orientation as a protected class. This is the only way we can insure justice for all Coloradans and prevent future economic sanctions. Amendment 2 has damaged many lives. Together, we can heal them.

— Terry Schleder
Founder, Boycott Colorado
— Duncan Osborne
Member, New York! Boycott Colorado

Drug war can be won

I would like to comment on Stephen Chapman's Dec. 14 column urging the legalization of drugs. I disagree with his premise that legalizing drugs will deter drugs or crime.

His example of dropping prohibition of alcohol is unfounded. Alcohol still is a prevalent problem in society.

Legalizing drugs will not make drugs less expensive. FDA regulations on packaging, distribution and taxation will probably increase the price.

Legalizing drugs will not make them any less addictive. "Crack" cocaine is extremely potent and one-time users automatically become dependent because of its potent nature. Legalized drugs will probably have a purity standard that equals crack's potential, which will make them more addictive.

Legalizing drugs will not deter crime. Firstly, drugs are expensive and require a large financial burden for the user. Secondly, drugs impair the judgment of a user and break down a user's inhibitions against robbing and/or hurting other people to meet narcotic needs. Look at what being "drunk" on alcohol does. Why do you think liquor stores get robbed so often?

Finally, the most crucial point in legalizing drugs will be a pathetic human harvest of despair (e.g., Needle Park in Switzerland). Should we turn our backs and throw human lives away into a drug waste hole simply because it's an easy solution? If your house was on fire, would you let your family slowly burn to death because firefighting equipment is so costly?

The war on drugs can be won. This country has fought wars before and won. We did not do it by surrendering. Now we advocate surrendering to the drug lords. We need both enforcement and education programs to go hand-in-hand.

Legalizing drugs will put an insurmountable burden on our society.

— David W. Kirkton
Colorado Springs

Mike Warner wants other business owners to know they can save hundreds or thousands of dollars — and the environment — by recycling computer printer ribbons.

Warner's Colorado Springs outfit, **Ribbons Plus Inc.**, replaces the ribbon in its original cartridge, a service he says costs a fraction of the cost of new ribbons. The process isn't one of re-inking. Instead, Warner completely refurbishes the original ribbon and puts it back in the cartridge, he said.

Warner said one of his customers, a local bank, will save about \$8,000 this year with used ribbons.

Warner, former executive director of the Colorado Springs-based ProRodeo Hall of Fame, turned entrepreneur in August 1992 when he bought the business, 2545 E. Platte Place.

Free book offers ideas on exporting

The **U.S. Small Business Administration** and **AT&T** have published "Breaking Into the Trade Game — A Small Business Guide to Exporting."

The book covers such topics as identifying international markets, entering foreign markets, export financing and transportation.

Call 1-800-8-ASK-SBA for more information on the free book.

Atmel, Simtek unveil new chips

New products:

■ **Atmel Corp.** broadened its line of flash chips this month, introducing a three-volt-only, two-megabit flash product. Atmel's flash line now includes 10 devices.

The new devices, the AT29LV020 and the AT29C020 are ideal for program storage for such applications as cellular phones, personal computers, local-area networks and computer peripherals in which power and easy use are important, Atmel said. Prices start at \$28 in quantities of 100.

■ Local chip designer **Simtek Corp.** this month introduced what it calls an industry first: a single-chip static random access memory with the ability to retain information and time without constant power.

Other companies make similar chips, but they require a backup battery to keep the chip's clock running when power is cut. Such chips are com-



Mike Warner uses an ultrasonic welding machine to rejoin the ends of a recycled computer printer ribbon at his company, Ribbons Plus Inc.

monly used in utility meters, industrial control machinery, copiers and personal computers to store data and keep track of time.

Simtek worked with one of its customers, Newark, Ohio-based Electric Meters Inc., to create a 64-kilobit, one-chip nonvolatile memory that doesn't require a battery, said David Bowers, Simtek vice president of sales and marketing.

Phone company lists what's hot

Oh, the ways the companies try to sneak in a little promotion for themselves. **Pacific Bell** offers this list of what's hot and what's not for the New Year. Not surprisingly, several of the "hots" are

products Pa-
telephone co-
past few ye-
Hot: telec-
commuting.
Hot: payi-
Hot: perso-
pay phones.
Hot: mess-
Hot: Call-
More ho-
ing best sel-
■ Top CD

RED HOT

Academy & Dominion
(Just N. of Mountasia)



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